



## WNY roads get poor grades

Stacey Shepard  
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BUFFALO — Forty percent of major roads in the Buffalo-Niagara region are considered to be in substandard condition, according to a transportation report released Wednesday.

The area's highway system received a C minus on highway, bridge and traffic safety from The Road Information Program, a non-profit research firm in Washington, D.C.

"Further modernization of the transportation system is critical," said Carolyn Bonifas, associate director of research for TRIP, who described the area's current infrastructure as "deteriorating" and "structurally deficient."

Bonifas said poor roads and bridges lead to more accidents and can hurt the local economy.

The report said the region has a traffic fatality rate of 7.5 fatalities per 100,000, which is higher than the statewide rate of 5.15.

Deteriorating roadways are a deterrent to bringing in new businesses, which are increasingly looking at an area's transportation system, she said.

"The economy in the Buffalo area is literally riding on the transportation system," Bonifas said.

The study cited several examples of infrastructure in need of repair in the Town of Tonawanda, North Tonawanda, Wheatfield and Niagara Falls.

It called for the replacement of bridges on the I-190 that cross Lockport Road and the La Salle Expressway in Niagara Falls. The stretch of the I-290 where it crosses the I-190 also made the list of structurally deficient bridges.

Most heavily traveled roads in Buffalo-Niagara with significant deterioration

Rank Road Daily traffic

1. NY 78 (from Aero Dr. to NY 5) 44,100
2. NY 5 (from Milestrip to Ridge Rd.) 42,100
3. US 20 (from Amsdell to NY 240) 22,000
4. NY 62 (from No. Tonawanda line to Nash) 20,200
5. Wehrle Drive (from Ellicott Creek to NY 78) 16,600
6. NY 240 (from Genesee to Saratoga) 16,300
7. Sweet Home Road (from Maple to Ellicott Creek) 15,200
8. NY 5 (from NY 198 to Hertel Ave.) 14,900
9. NY 384 (from 10th St to I-190) 9,400
10. NY 104 (from Ontario to Niagara Falls) 3,350